

Chapter 9.0 Infrastructure

9.1 Vision and Purpose

VISION

The goal of this Infrastructure Plan is to encourage strategic management of infrastructure operation, maintenance and capital investment within the Central Area.

The Central Area, because of its history of early development, has an excellent but aging infrastructure of utility and transportation system. Investment, both public and private, is required to systematically replace, repair and/or upgrade basic infrastructure systems over time. Maintaining a high quality of infrastructure "in the Central Area both in regard to service needs and to the visual impact will encourage a higher quality of private development and will help to maintain the value of property owners' investments. New technology, especially in the rapidly changing telecommunications field, also requires upgrading of the Central Area's infrastructure so businesses, institution and residents alike have excellent access.

9.2 Planning Context

Past. The Central Area was developed beginning over 100 years ago. An excellent water supply system that serves **all portions** of the Central Area developed at that time. There is also a good drainage system, although there have been some past problems with drainage. A **new** retention system was recently built to address the drainage problem in Madison Valley. In the 1970's there was a program to underground electrical service in Southeast Seattle and in some part of the Central Area, but **because** of the impact of costs on the property owners, especially low income property owners, the program was ended. Residents, especially low-income residents, have benefited over the years because of the public ownership of both the water and electrical utilities. Rates **have** been kept affordable for low income residents. (**Also** refer to the transportation chapter for that **infrastructure's** planning context).

Present. As a result of **early investment**, the **Central** Area has good basic **infrastructure** systems, but these are aging and will require replacement or repair. There are few blocks in the Madison/Miller area that experience **low** water pressure and Seattle Public Utilities monitors this. With an existing state funding source, most **of** the intersection traffic signals in the Central Area have been upgraded and interconnected in recent years.

Future. The challenge is to keep pace **with** the required repair, replacement and upgrading of the Central Area's aging **infrastructure**. **Seattle Public Utilities** **has** identified **priority** sections that will need **repair in the** next decade or two. **Repair** and replacement of property owners' connecting systems **will also** require increased private investment.

UNRESOLVED PLANNING ISSUES

Infrastructure issues have not been **as** thoroughly researched and addressed as might be desirable, but the intention is that the Plan identifies a number of areas and concerns that can be further developed as time, interest, and funding allows. Because of the fast pace of **telecommunication** development, the specifics of providing the necessary quality of access has not been specified but **the** goal is clearly to provide the best service possible.

9.3 Transportation

ACTION **Coordinate Street** Construction. Encourage **coordination** of construction **work** within the **street** right of way **in** order to *maximize the* public benefit and minimize the disruption of the street surface.

1.9.3.1 Annual Report of Scheduled Construction Projects. Request an annual report **from** the City identifying the scheduled **construction** projects both public and private where known that will impact Central Area streets during the next biennium.

1-9.3.2 **Review Team** for Capital Improvement Plans. Establish a **Central Area** community review team to review City maintenance and capital improvement **plans** and identify opportunities for coordination.

1-9.3.3 Timely **restoration of rights-of-way** following construction. Ensure timely completion and restoration "of right-of-way facilities for all transportation modes following **construction** projects.

9.4 Maintenance of Infrastructure

ACTION **Maintenance of Transportation Infrastructure**. Provide regular maintenance of the transportation **infrastructure** in the Central Area, **including** consideration for enhancing the **condition** of alleys.

I-9.4.1 Repaving Scheduling. Work with Seattle Transportation to provide a schedule for repaving of **arterials**.

- 1-9.4.2 Resurfacing Scheduling. Work with Seattle Transportation to develop a schedule for resurfacing neighborhood streets that are deteriorated. Include community input to help identify paving needs and priority
- 1-9.4.3 **Identification** and Scheduling of Poor Sidewalks. Work with Seattle Transportation to identify deteriorated sidewalks and develop a **schedule** for repairing these sidewalks.
- . Give priority to Key Pedestrian Streets.
 - . Develop a method of minimizing the costs of sidewalk repair for adjacent property owners, especially **low** income residents. .
- “ 1-9.4.4 Monitoring of Sidewalk Condition and Landscaping. Develop and monitor plan for **regular** maintenance of landscaping along sidewalks.
- Provide regular maintenance along city-owned sidewalk. Centralize responsibility regardless of which City department has jurisdiction.
 - . Enforce codes that require sidewalks to be kept **clear**.
 - . Develop program to assist homeowners with sidewalk maintenance.
- 1-9.4.5 Replacement of Street Designation Signs. Work with Seattle Transportation to develop regular and predictable schedule for replacing missing or damaged street designation signs.
- 1-9.4.6 Street Cleaning. Work with Seattle Transportation to develop regular and thorough **street** cleaning program.
- Develop program to ensure cars are moved from street at time of sweeping.
- 1-9.4.7 Alley Paving as needed. Work with Seattle Transportation and the Department of Finance to develop alley paving programs as needed.
- . Focus efforts where ADU (Attached Dwelling Units) housing opportunities “exist(Refer to Housing chapter for ADUs information).
 - Encourage the development of Local Improvement Districts and **identify** ways that the City can share in the costs.

9.5 Water Service

ACTION Water Service Needs: (1) Develop a strategic plan for water main replacement in the Central Area, and (2) ensure adequate water pressure to **meet** public safety and user needs.

- I-9.5.1 **Water Main Strategic Plan.** Work with Seattle Public Utilities to develop a strategic plan for water main replacement:
- **Overlay priority water main replacement areas with planned and/or requested street improvements and prioritize and coordinate construction.**
 - **Project schedule for replacement over next ten years and make the information publicly accessible.**
 - **Coordinate with private property owners' replacement of connecting service lines. Develop a program to assist low income residents.**
- I-9.5.2 **Adequate Water Pressure.** Monitor City's steps to **provide adequate** water pressure to meet public safety needs.
- I-9.5.3 **Annual Report on Water Pressure Conditions.** Request an annual report from Seattle Public Utilities on locations where water pressure does not meet City standards for public safety along with an action plan and **timeline to increase the pressure.**

9.6 Drainage

- ACTION** Actions will include (1) Addressing drainage issue hot spots, and (2) encouraging Seattle **Public** Utilities to develop a community adopt-a-drain program.
- I-9.6.1 **Dealing with problem drainage areas.** Identify and respond to areas **that** have persistent flooding problems.
- I-9.6.2 **Drain Care.** Work with the City to encourage development of a drain care program as part of the adopt-a-street program.
- I-9.6.3 **Infrastructure Public Education Program.** Encourage a public education program **about** the **infrastructure** facilities, identifying hotspots and encourage community **monitoring**.
- . Explain why monitoring is in the self interest of adjacent property owners.

9.7 Electrical

- ACTION** **Undergrounding of Utilities.** In order to improve visual quality of the Central Area, especially along view corridors, **greenstreets** and boulevards, encourage **undergrounding** of utilities when the majority of costs can be born by the utilities.

Public Ownership of Utilities. Maintain public ownership of utilities in order to ensure the long term affordability for low income families.

1-9.7.1 Place utilities underground on key corridors. Work with the Seattle City Light to develop **program** and mechanism to **underground** utilities along major view corridors, greenstreets and boulevards, especially if the costs can be **primarily** carried by the utility as part of another project.

1-9.7.2 Ensure future utilities are placed underground. Develop plan to **systematically** incorporate **undergrounding** whenever major street work is planned.

. Plan to underground along 12th Avenue when street improvements are made.

. Work with fiberoptic/cable companies to develop joint uirdergrounding projects

1-9.7.3 Incentives for Undergrounding **Utilities**. Develop an incentive for mrdergourrding service lines for **all** new construction and remodel projects. .

1-9.7.4 Information on **Public Ownership of Utilities**. Develop information on the benefits of public ownership of the utilities.

9.8 Telecommunications

ACTION Telecommunication Infrastructure - Access and Facilities Ensure the Central Area is served by the most up to date communication technology and Minimize the impact of *new* telecommunication facilities such es towers on the visual quality of the neighborhoods.

1-9.8.1 Upgrade Telecommunication Access for the Central Area. Develop plan for **upgrading the telecommunication** access infrastructure for **business, education and** residential users.

1-9.8.2 Community Review of Towers and Other Facilities. . Develop a community review process for **all** towers or other visible facilities that impact views and or the character of the neighborhood.

1-9.8.3 Development Guidelines for Placement of Facilities. Establish guidelines for placement of towers and other facilities that impact views.